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LETTER DATED 23 OCTOBER 1962 FROM THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On the instructions of the Soviet Government I would ask you to convene a meeting of the Security Council immediately in order to examine the question of "Violation of the Charter of the United Nations and threat to the peace on the part of the United States of America".

The grounds for the request to convene the Security Council are set forth in the Statement by the Soviet Government on Cuba which is annexed to this letter.

Please arrange for this letter and the said Statement by the Soviet Government to be issued as an official Security Council document.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) P. MRCZOV
Deputy Permanent Representative
of the USSR to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT ON CUBA

Last night Mr. Kennedy, the President of the United States of America, announced that he had given orders to the United States Navy to intercept all ships bound for Cuba, to subject them to inspection, and to turn back ships carrying weapons which, in the judgement of the United States authorities, were offensive in character. Orders had also been given for continued and close surveillance of Cuba. Thus the United States Government is in effect placing the Republic of Cuba under naval blockade. At the same time, the landing of additional United States troops at the United States Guantanamo base, situated in the territory of Cuba, has begun, and the United States armed forces are being placed in a state of combat readiness.

The President is endeavouring to justify these unprecedented aggressive acts by arguments to the effect that a threat to the national security of the United States is arising in Cuba.

The Soviet Government has repeatedly drawn the attention of the Governments of all countries and of world public opinion to the serious danger to world peace created by the policy pursued by the United States towards the Republic of Cuba. The statement by the President of the United States shows that the United States imperialist circles will stop at nothing in their attempts to stifle a sovereign State Member of the United Nations. To do this they are prepared to push the world towards the abyss of military catastrophe. The peoples of all countries must clearly realize that, in embarking on such a venture, the United States of America is taking a step towards the unleashing of a world thermonuclear war. Insolently flouting the international rules of conduct for States and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the United States has arrogated to itself - and has so announced - the right to attack the vessels of other States on the high seas: in other words, to engage in piracy.

Imperialist circles in the United States are trying to dictate to Cuba what policy it must pursue, what dispositions it is to make at home, and what weapons it must possess for its defence. But who has authorized the United States to assume the role of arbiter of the destinies of other countries and peoples? Why must the Cubans settle the domestic affairs of their own State, not as they see fit, but according to the wishes of the United States? Cuba belongs to the Cuban people, and only they can be masters of their fate.

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Under the Charter of the United Nations, all countries, large or small, have the right to organize their lives in their own way, to take such measures as they consider necessary to protect their own security, and to rebuff aggressive forces encroaching on their freedom and independence. To ignore this is to undermine the very basis of existence of the United Nations, to bring jungle law into international practice, and to engender conflicts and wars without end.

In this anxious hour, the Soviet Government considers it its duty to address a serious warning to the United States Government, to advise it that, in carrying out the measures announced by President Kennedy, it is taking on itself a heavy responsibility for the fate of the world, and recklessly playing with fire.

The United States leaders must at last understand that times have changed completely. Only madmen can now take their stand on "positions of strength" and expect that policy to bring them any success, to allow them to force their own dispositions on other States. While in the past the United States could consider itself the greatest Power on the world scene, there is no foundation for such a view today. There is another force in the world which is no less powerful, and which takes the position that peoples should arrange their life as they please. Today, as never before, statesmen must show calm and prudence, and must not countenance the rattling of weapons.

The Soviet Government emphasizes once again that all weapons in the Soviet Union's possession are serving and will serve the purposes of defence against aggressors. Under existing international conditions, the presence of powerful weapons, including nuclear rocket weapons, in the Soviet Union is acknowledged by all the peoples in the world to be the decisive factor in deterring the aggressive forces of imperialism from unleashing a world war of annihilation. This mission the Soviet Union will continue to discharge with all firmness and consistency.

The President of the United States said in his statement that, if even one nuclear bomb fell on United States territory, the United States would make a retaliatory response. Such an assertion is imbued with hypocrisy, since the Soviet Union has already declared repeatedly that not a single Soviet nuclear bomb will fall either on the United States or on any other country unless aggression has been committed. The nuclear weapons made by the Soviet people are in the people's hands; they will never be used for purposes of aggression.

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But if the aggressors unleash war, the Soviet Union will inflict the most powerful blow in response.

The Soviet Union has always been true to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations; it has consistently pursued, and still pursues, a policy designed to preserve and strengthen peace. The whole world knows what great efforts the Soviet Union is making to lessen international tension, to eliminate the breeding-grounds of conflict and disputation between States, and to make the principles of peaceful co-existence between States with different social structures a living reality. It is the Soviet Union which has put forward and justified a programme of universal and complete disarmament, the application of which would open real prospects for the establishment of a peace without wars, without weapons. These proposals are gaining ever-increasing support throughout the world; they have fired the imagination of the people; they have become the order of the day. If the cause of disarmament has made no progress so far, the fault lies with the United States of America and its allies in NATO. They fear disarmament; they do not want to part with the big stick with whose help they are trying to dictate their will to other countries.

The United States Government accuses Cuba of creating a threat to the security of the United States. But who is going to believe that Cuba can be a threat to the United States? If we think of the respective size and resources of the two countries, of their armaments, no statesman in his right mind can imagine for one moment that Cuba can be a threat to the United States of America or to any other country. It is hypocritical, to say the least, to say that little Cuba may encroach on the security of the United States of America.

The Cubans wish to secure their homeland, their independence, against the threat emanating from the United States of America. The Government of Cuba is appealing to reason and conscience, and is calling upon the United States to refrain from making threatening passes at Cuba's independence and to establish normal relations with the Cuban State. Is there not a ring of conviction in the official declaration by the Cuban Government concerning its ambition to settle all questions at issue through negotiations with the United States Government?

Only recently, in speaking at the session of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Dorticos, the President of the Republic of Cuba, reiterated that Cuba has always expressed its readiness to negotiate through the normal diplomatic channel or by any other means with view to discussing the differences existing between the United States and Cuba. The President of the United States now implies that such statements by the Cuban Government are not enough. But it would be possible to justify any aggressive action, any adventure in this way.

With regard to the Soviet Union's assistance to Cuba, this assistance is exclusively designed to improve Cuba's defensive capacity. As was stated on 3 September 1962 in the joint Soviet-Cuban communiqué on the visit to the Soviet Union of a Cuban delegation composed of Mr. E. Guevara and Mr. E. Aragones, the Soviet Government has responded to the Cuban Government's request to help Cuba with arms. The communiqué states that such arms and military equipment are intended solely for defensive purposes. The Governments of the two countries still firmly adhere to that position.

Soviet assistance in strengthening Cuba's defences is necessitated by the fact that, from the outset of its existence, the Republic of Cuba has been subjected to continuous threats and acts of provocation by the United States. The United States is stopping at nothing, even going so far as to organize armed intervention in Cuba in April 1961, in order to deprive the Cuban people of the freedom and independence they have won, to bring the country once more under the heel of the United States monopolies and to make Cuba a United States puppet.

The United States is demanding that the military equipment Cuba needs for its own defence should be withdrawn from its territory, a step to which no State prizeing its independence can, of course, agree.

The Soviet Union considers that all foreign troops should be withdrawn from the territory of other States and should be brought back within their own national frontiers. If the United States was genuinely concerned to strengthen friendly relations with States and was striving to ensure lasting peace throughout the world, as President Kennedy asserts in his address of 22 October, it should have accepted the Soviet proposal and withdrawn its troops and military equipment and dismantled its military bases that are situated in the territory of other States in various parts of the world.

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However, the United States, which has dispersed its armed forces and armaments throughout the world, stubbornly refuses to accept this proposal. It is using these armed forces and armaments for interference in the domestic affairs of other States and for the implementation of its own aggressive designs. It is United States imperialism which has assumed the role of international gendarme. The representatives of the United States constantly boast that United States aircraft can attack the Soviet Union at any time, can drop United States bombs on peaceful towns and villages and can deliver heavy blows. Not a day passes without the statesmen, military leaders and the Press of the United States uttering threats that United States submarines, which are ranging through many seas and oceans with Polaris missiles on board, can launch an atomic attack against the Soviet Union and other peace-loving States. President Kennedy's statement that the United States Government is acting solely in the interests of peace in making its exaggerated demands that Cuba should be deprived of the means of defence rings particularly false in the light of those facts.

The peace-loving States cannot but protest against the piratical operations which the President of the United States has announced against ships bound for Cuban shores, against the institution of control over the ships of sovereign States on the high seas. As we know, United States statesmen like to talk about their adherence to the principles of international law and to dilate upon the need for law and order in the world. But in reality they evidently consider that the laws are written not for the United States, but for other States. The institution by the United States of a virtual blockade of Cuban shores is a provocative act, an unprecedented violation of international law, a challenge to all peace-loving peoples.

It is also obvious that, if the United States is today attempting to prohibit other countries from trading with Cuba and from using their ships to transport goods and cargoes there, United States ruling circles may tomorrow demand that similar action should be taken against any other State whose policy or social system does not suit them.

The United States Government is assuming the right to demand that States should account to it for the way in which they organize their defence, and should notify it of what their ships are carrying on the high seas.

The Soviet Government firmly repudiates such claims. The high-handed acts of United States imperialism may lead to catastrophic consequences for all mankind, which is not desired by any people, including the people of the United States.

In view of the full gravity of the situation which the United States Government has created over Cuba, the Soviet Government has instructed its representative in the United Nations to raise the question of the immediate convening of the Security Council to consider the following question: "The violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the threat to peace by the United States of America".

The Soviet Union appeals to all Governments and peoples to raise their voice in protest against the aggressive acts of the United States of America against Cuba and other States, strongly to condemn such acts and to take steps to prevent the unleashing of a thermonuclear war by the United States Government.

The Soviet Government will do everything in its power to frustrate the aggressive designs of United States imperialist circles and to defend and strengthen peace on earth.

The Soviet Government expresses its firm belief that the Soviet people will still further increase their labour efforts to strengthen the economic and defence capacity of their Soviet fatherland. The Soviet Government is taking all the necessary steps to insure that the country is not taken by surprise and is in a position to mete out an appropriate rebuff to an aggressor.
